

Dear Chair Longley,

Please adopt a general order for the disposal of oil and gas wastewater into open pits that protects our vital aquifers by ending this risky disposal method. Thank you for taking a more active role in overseeing the oil and gas industry, but anything short of a prohibition on open pits would be a failure to adequately protect water quality.

The California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) recommends that unless the presence of harmful chemicals can be ruled out in produced water, unlined pits should be prohibited. The State lacks the information, testing and monitoring needed to meet this standard, and has for decades failed to enforce basic water quality laws, allowing hundreds of un-permitted and many polluting pits to continue to operate.

I urge you stand up to the oil industry, listen to the science, and prohibit open pit disposal.

Sincerely,